

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2, 8, 9, 13, 19, 20, 24, 30, 35, 41, and 42, and amend claims 1, 10, 11, 12, 21, 22, 23, 32, 33, 34, 43, and 44 as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus, comprising:

(a) data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of defined storage elements, wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID, with each separate partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

(b) memory means containing multiple datastores and usage data for each of the multiple datastores, said usage data indicating which of said defined storage elements contains image data of the predetermined frame definition/size; and

(c) processing means configured to:

(i) update said usage data in each of said datastores in response to image data being stored within said data storage means, wherein;

~~— said memory means further contains a datastore, and said processing means is configured to:~~

(ii) analyse said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

(iii) store information within each of said datastore-datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each separate partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each separate partition not containing image data; and

(iv) read the information from said data-storage-means datastore to determine whether said further image data may be stored.

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

4. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

5. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

6. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said analysis of said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

7. (ORIGINAL) Data processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said memory means.

8. (CANCELLED)

9. (CANCELLED)

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Data processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein ~~said datastore~~ each of said multiple datastores comprises a ~~plurality of caches~~ cache, and

~~each cache is configured to receive information relating only to storage elements configured to receive image frames of a specified definition.~~

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) In a data processing system comprising processing means, memory means having multiple datastores, and RAID data storage means having a plurality of defined storage elements, a method of storing data, comprising the steps of:

storing image frames in the RAID data storage means, said RAID data storage means having a plurality of defined storage elements, wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID, with each separate partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

storing usage data for each of the multiple datastores within said memory means, said usage data indicating which of said defined storage elements for each partition contains image data of the predetermined frame definition/size;

analysing said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

storing information within a each of said datastore datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each separate partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each separate partition not containing image data; and

reading the information from said datastore to determine whether further image data may be stored.

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 12, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 12, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 16, wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 12, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said memory means.

19. (CANCELLED)

20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1220, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 1220, wherein each of said multiple datastore datastores comprises a cache, ~~plurality of caches, and each cache is configured to receive information relating only to storage elements configured to receive image frames of a specified definition.~~

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer such that, when executing said instructions, a computer will perform the steps of:

storing data within data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of defined storage elements, wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID, with each separate partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

storing usage data in multiple datastores, said usage data indicating which of said storage elements is currently being used in the predetermined frame definition/size;

in response to data being stored within said data storage means, updating said usage data in each of the multiple datastores;

analysing said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

storing information within ~~a each of said datastore~~ datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each separate partition and indicating said number of storage elements in each separate partition not containing image data; and

reading said information from said datastore to determine whether further image data may be stored.

24. (CANCELLED)

25. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 23, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

26. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 23, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

27. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 26, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

28. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 27, wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

29. (ORIGINAL) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 23, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of the computer.

30. (CANCELLED)

31. (CANCELLED)

32. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim ~~23~~³¹, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

33. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable instructions executable by a computer according to claim 31, wherein ~~said each of~~ datastore

~~datastores comprises a plurality of caches/cache, and each cache is configured to receive information relating only to storage elements configured to receive image frames of a specified definition.~~

34. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system programmed to execute stored instructions such that in response to said stored instructions said system is configured to:

store data within data storage means comprising a RAID having a plurality of defined storage elements, wherein each of said defined storage elements comprises a separate partition on the RAID, with each separate partition configured to accept image data relating to image frames of a predetermined frame definition/size;

store usage data in multiple datastores, said usage data indicating which of said storage elements contains image data in the predetermined frame definition/size;

in response to data being stored within said data storage means, update said usage data in each of the multiple datastores;

analyse said usage data to determine the number of said storage elements not containing image data;

store information within each of said datastores, said information identifying the predetermined frame definition/size for each separate partition and a datastore indicating said number of storage elements not containing image data;

read said information from said datastore to determine whether said further image data may be stored.

35. (CANCELLED)

36. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim 34, wherein said data storage means comprises a hard disk.

37. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim 34, wherein said usage data comprises a plurality of data elements, each data element corresponding to one storage element on said data storage means.

38. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim 37, wherein said usage data comprises a bitmap.

39. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim 38, wherein said step of analysing said usage data comprises parsing said bitmap.

40. (ORIGINAL) A computer system according to claim 34, wherein said datastore comprises at least one cache within the kernel memory of said computer system.

41. (CANCELLED)

42. (CANCELLED)

43. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system according to claim ~~34~~42, wherein each said storage element has the storage capacity to store only one of said image frames of said predetermined frame definition/size.

44. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer system according to claim 42, wherein ~~each said datastore comprises a plurality of caches/cache, and each cache is configured to receive information relating only to storage elements configured to receive image frames of a specified definition.~~